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Implementing The Tracking Network

breakout ABSTRACT

Abstract No. 29

TITLE

USING INTERACTIVE WEB MAPPERS TO IMPROVE ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH IN MISSOURI.

TRACK

Technology

OBJECTIVES

1. How interactive Web mappers can be used to improve environmental public health.

2. That interactive Web mappers are a great tool for improving access to information for both the general public and professionals.

3. How collaboration is key to a successful Web mapping effort.

SUMMARY

The Environmental Public Health Mapper is a collaborative effort between Missouri Environmental Public Health Tracking, the Missouri Hazardous Substances Emergency Events Surveillance Program (HSEES), and the Center for Agricultural, Resource, and Environmental Systems (CARES). The Mapper is based on Environmental Systems Research Institute's (ESRI) ArcIMS software. It provides a dynamic approach for presenting Missouri's environmental public health data.

The initial phase of development focused on mapping HSEES events. Through the mapper events can be queried by substance name, event type, event year, and geographic location. By selecting a record, users are zoomed in closer to each event. An aerial photograph and roads are revealed to provide them with a point of reference. Additional tools allow for the measuring of distance, determining latitude and longitude, and through an algorithm, the total number of individuals that were potentially exposed at a user-defined distance from each event. Once they are ready, users can create an HTML or PDF report of their query.

Future enhancements planned for the mapper include adding additional layers and analysis tools. Mapper users will also be given the ability to geocode an address of interest and determine environmental hazards that fall within a certain distance of the address.

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